GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:443
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013
WADHWA COMMITTEE ON PDS
Lal Shri Kirodi

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wadhwa Committee has made certain recommendations with regard to improvement in the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether suggestions/observations have been received from some State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen the PDS?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): The Central Vigilance Committee (CVC) with Justice D.P. Wadhwa as Chairman was set up by Hon'ble Supreme Court to look into maladies affecting functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) and to suggest remedial measures. In pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 17.09.2012, the CVC has submitted a final report to the Hon'ble Supreme Court summarizing its recommendations on functioning of PDS. The Committee has bifurcated its recommendations into long term and short term. The long term recommendations include (i) constitution of Civil Supply Corporation in every State/Union Territory and (ii) Computerization of whole PDS operations. The short term measures include issues namely (i) Identification of beneficiaries / Inclusion and Exclusion errors (ii) Storage capacity (iii) Transportation of PDS foodgrains (iv) Viability of Fair Price Shop (FPS) (v) Accountability and monitoring (vi) Allocation of foodgrain on per unit basis (vii) Vigilance Committee (viii) Complaint Mechanism (ix) Allotment of FPS (x) Awareness of beneficiaries (xi) Vigilance and Enforcement (xii) Functioning of FPS (xiii) Supply of Fortified atta (xiv) Elimination of Bogus and Fake ration cards (xv) Electronic Weighment (xvi) Issuance of ration cards (xvii) Implementation of Hon'ble Supreme Court`s Order dated 08.05.2002 and 02.05.2003 (xviii) Allocation of PDS foodgrain from Centre to States / UTs on the basis of projected population, 2012 (xix) Joint Sampling (xx) Abolition of APL category and (xxi) Special measures for poorest districts in the Country.

(c) & (d) Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 7.1.2013 has directed the Central and State/UT Governments to file their response on the report of CVC. Accordingly, States / UTs are to submit their response in the matter to the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Strengthening and streamlining of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at FPSs, ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, and introduction of new technologies such as Computerisation of TPDS operations at various levels and improving the efficiency of FPS operations.